

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 120228

EYES ONLY FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:EA SUMMARY ITEMS FOR MAY 23-24, 1977

1. PRESIDENT MARCOS REPORTS ON ISLAMIC CONFERENCE (CONFIDENTIAL). DURING A MEETING WITH CHARGE STULL AND AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ, PRESIDENT MARCOS RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO REPORTING THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE TRIPOLI ISLAMIC CONFERENCE ON THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES WAS: (A) CONTINUATION OF THE CEASE-FIRE; (B) QUADRIPARTITE MEDIATION; AND (C) NO SANCTIONS. ACCORDING TO MARCOS, THE SAUDI ARABIANS HAD SAID THAT THEY WERE NOT INTERESTED IN SANCTIONS AND THE INDONESIANS HAD SAID THEY WOULD SUPPLY PETROLEUM TO THE PHILIPPINES IF OTHERS WERE TO CUT IT OFF. MARCOS CONCLUDED THAT THE OUTCOME REPORTED FROM TRIPOLI "MUST BE CONSIDERED A GOOD THING, AS LONG AS THE CEASE-FIRE CONTINUES."

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THE EMBASSY INTERPRETS THE OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE TO MEAN A RETURN TO SOME FORM OF DISCUSSIONS, POSSIBLY EVEN FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS, IF THE MNLF GROUND FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES CONCUR. STULL HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT MARCOS BELIEVES THAT AS LONG AS THE CEASE-FIRE HOLDS, HE (MARCOS) MAY BE ABLE TO "MUDDLE THROUGH (THE CRISIS) WITH A COMBINATION OF RHETORIC, MONEY, POLITICAL MANEUVERING AND MARGINAL

CONCESSIONS."

2. INDONESIA REACTION TO NEWS OF COMMUNIST RECEPTION IN PEKING (CONFIDENTIAL). INDONESIA DEFENSE MINISTER GENERAL PANGGABEAN, IN HIS CAPACITY AS ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, STATED THAT HUA KUO-FENG'S WARM RECEPTION OF THE EXILED LEADER OF THE INDONESIA COMMUNIST PARTY, "WOULD NOT HELP TO SPEED UP THE RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS" (DATE OF STATEMENT NOT GIVEN). THE EMBASSY COMMENTS THAT UNLESS THE PRC SOMEHOW COMPENSATES FOR ITS RECEPTION OF THE COMMUNIST LEADER, INDONESIA HARDLINERS MAY SUCCEED IN POSTPONING NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH PEKING WELL BEYOND THE PRESENT TARGET DATE OF 1978, FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

3. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AMONG THE RELIGIONS IN VIETNAM (CONFIDENTIAL). AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE REPORTS FROM BANGKOK: BECAUSE VIETNAM'S RELIGIONS REPRESENT GROUPS WHICH REMAIN SOMEWHAT OUTSIDE THE ABSOLUTE CONTROL OF VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES, THEY MERIT WATCHING BECAUSE THEY ARE POTENTIALLY CAPABLE OF ORGANIZING PASSIVE AND EVEN ACTIVE RESISTANCE TO THE COMMUNISTS IF THEY SO CHOOSE. IN SAIGON, AN QUANG BUDDHISTS, REPORTEDLY LED BEHIND THE SCENES BY THICH TRI QUANG, CONTINUE TO PRESENT CHALLENGES TO THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES WHO HAVE RETALIATED BY ARRESTING CERTAIN KEY LEADERS. THE END OF THE CONFRONTATION IS REPORTEDLY NOT YET IN SIGHT. ONE HEARS LITTLE TALK NOW OF ACTIVE CATHOLIC RESISTANCE TO THE VIETNAMESE  
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AUTHORITIES, ALTHOUGH EXAMPLES OF PASSIVE RESISTANCE (E.G., HELPING SOMEONE TO ESCAPE THE COUNTRY) ARE OCCASIONALLY REPORTED. FINALLY, THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT IS APPARENTLY FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO UNIFY NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS UNDER NORTHERN CONTROL DUE TO RESISTANCE BY SOUTHERN GROUPS.

4. SINGAPORE PRESS REACTION TO CARTER'S NOTRE DAME SPEECH (UNCLASSIFIED). BOTH SINGAPORE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPERS MAY 24 CARRIED EDITORIALS BASED ON A CAREFUL READING OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S NOTRE DAME SPEECH. BOTH THE STRAITS TIMES AND THE NEW NATION REACTED FAVORABLY TO THE SPEECH, BUT BOTH WONDERED IF MR. CARTER IS NOT TOO COMPLACENT ABOUT COMMUNISM.

5. U.S. ARMS SALES POLICY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN JAVA (CONFIDENTIAL). AMBASSADOR OLMSTEAD REPORTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA (GPNG) IS VERY PLEASED WITH THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS AND ARMS SALES POLICIES.

THE GPNG WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF THE U.S. WERE NOW TO APPLY  
PRESSURE TO INDONESIA ON BEHALF OF THE IRIANESE ON WEST

JAVA WHO ARE REPORTEDLY BEING ABUSED BY THE INDONESIA.  
EMBASSY PORT MORESBY EXPECTS CONFLICT BETWEEN IRIANESE AND  
INDONESIA TO BE A LONG TERM PROBLEM. VANCE

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